

**Meeting Minutes  
Board of Trustees  
First Unitarian Church, South Bend  
July 13, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

*Present:* Gail deSomer, Florence Klecka, Karen Dickson, Rev. Chip Roush, Ken Chambers, Becky Lindstrom, Lynn Liston, Bill Stevens, Elena Wake

*Absent:*

*Guests:* Pat Davis, Dan Holm, Rin Adams

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:03. Rev. Chip led the Chalice Lighting. Next was check-in and recitation of Covenant.

Approval of minutes

Motion made to accept the June meeting minutes by Gail, seconded by Bill. Carried unanimously.

Changes to Agenda

Add to New Business: future meeting conditions and request to join Faith in Indiana.

Reports

Reports from Minister, Treasurer and Committees received in packet. Additional information given in meeting:

*Minister:* Asked for any questions or comments. Gail and Lynn liked the format as is, and found it very informative as to all the minister's duties. Bill asked for definition of "unit": it is approximately 4 hours.

*President:* Not much has happened in the first two weeks. More next month.

*Treasurer:* We appear to have ended the last fiscal year in the black. A few other changes to the format need to be made as Elena takes over the Treasurer duties. A donation to, and expenditures from, the Ministerial Discretionary Fund were made but not recorded yet.

*Adult RE Committee:* Will meet 7/27 to plan activities for the year.

*(Youth) RE Committee:* Team members will not receive any salary, to help keep costs down.

*COVID Task Force:* Rin expressed a "target request" that, for now, everyone be masked while in the building, at least before and during the service. Singing while masked should be okay, although more research on churches that have done this might be pursued.

Old Business

*Service Auction date:* Gail contacted Kathy Platt to confer about holding the auction so close to Halloween, worrying that it would conflict with a possible RE Halloween party. It will remain at 10/29, since the surrounding dates also have conflicts (ND games, etc.).

New Business

*Minister's Housing Allowance:* Keep at same level as last year? Moved by Florence, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail. Passed unanimously.

*Board Retreat:* Date is August 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Karen Dickson's house in Dowagiac. Gail and Lynn agreed to provide lunch. Agenda will include policies on Right Relations and Conflict Resolution, goals for the church year, and other topics that come up. Dinner at Ken Chambers' house the night before, at 6:30 p.m.

*Committee liaisons:* New liaisons, to replace retired Board members, were assigned to various committees. For now, there is no marketing committee or COVID task force, as Rin Adams is looking into the COVID conditions and church policy for it. See attached list of assignments.

*Perpetual calendar:* We will discuss the use of this tool at the Board retreat.

*New Security Company:* Tabled until the August meeting.

*Changes to Stewardship Committee and Budgeting:* Ken wants these to be an ongoing, year-round process. This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

#### Other Business

*Future Meetings:* After discussion, the Board decided to keep meeting via Zoom, as it is more convenient for members who are traveling, ill, or more than ½ hour from the church. A hybrid (in person and Zoom) system is the most problematic one. Gail expressed hope that meeting in person at least quarterly might be possible.

*Join Faith in Indiana:* See packet for proposal from Dan & Lois Holm. The following motion was made by Gail and seconded by Bill: that the Board of Trustees of the First Unitarian Church commit to a contribution to Faith in Indiana in the amount of \$1,000, to be funded by a Share-the-Plate donation taken on July 24. The shortfall will be made up from the Invisible Church Fund.

Discussion: The original motion was to commit to an annual contribution of \$1,000. Several members, including the Treasurer, wanted to know where the money would come from. One possibility was to have an annual Share-the-Plate donation, and propose to the Endowment Committee to make up the shortfall. It was mentioned that although the Invisible Church Fund is restricted, belonging to an organization that gives the Church more visibility in the community adheres to the spirit of the Fund. Since the Board did not feel comfortable making a new, ongoing budget item that had not been voted on by the congregation, it was decided that the commitment should not continue beyond this year, and that the Peace & Justice Committee might come up with a plan for future contributions. Therefore, the motion was amended to only cover this year. The motion passed.

#### Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. eastern time

Respectfully submitted by:

Florence Klečka, Secretary, Board of Trustees